



## United States Department of the Interior



### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\\_mountain\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html)

In Reply Refer To:

3809 (NVB0100)

NVN-066621 (16-1A)

**JUL 21 2016**

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mount Lewis Field Office (MLFO) has received a Plan of Operations Amendment from Barrick Gold Exploration, Inc. (Barrick) for the Horse Canyon/Cortez Unified Exploration Project (HC/CUEP) and Reclamation Permit No. 0159 - Twin Declines for Underground Exploration (NVN-066621 (16-1A)). The Proposed Project is located approximately 35 miles southeast of Battle Mountain, Nevada, in the southern portion of the Cortez Mountain Range.

Barrick's current exploration activities within the HC/CUEP Plan boundary are conducted under a Plan of Operations, which authorizes surface disturbance of up to 549 acres of mineral surface exploration activities. Barrick proposes to reallocate 12 acres of the authorized surface disturbance to construct twin declines, exploration drifts and associated infrastructure to support underground exploration activities within the HC/CUEP Plan boundary.

The BLM has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed action. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the EA identifies, describes, and evaluates resource protection measures that would mitigate the possible impacts of the proposed project.

The EA is available on the BLM ePlanning webpage at <http://bit.ly/29JPKbm> and hardcopies of these documents are available for review at the Mount Lewis Field Office at the above address during regular business hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. The comment period begins July 21, 2016, and ends August 20, 2016. Written comments can be sent to the Mount Lewis Field Office at the above address during this 30-day period and will be considered in the decision-making process.

If you have any questions or require clarification on this EA, please call Christine Gabriel, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (775) 635-4164.

Sincerely,

For Jon D. Sherve  
Field Manager  
Mount Lewis Field Office